

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Florida
COUNTY:	Volusia
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:

Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Mary McLeod Bethune Home

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

Bethune-Cookman College

CITY OR TOWN:

Daytona Beach

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY:

Volusia

CODE

127

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:

Bethune-Cookman College

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Daytona Beach

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Registry of Deeds, Volusia County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Daytona Beach

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal

☐ State

☐ County

☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION		
CONDITION	(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	
	(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE		
<p>The Mary McLeod Bethune Home is located on the campus of Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida. The structure was the home of Mary McLeod Bethune from the time of its construction sometime in the 1920's until Mrs. Bethune's death in 1955.</p> <p>The home is a simple two story frame structure of a domestic style common to the 1920's. It is of no architectural significance. According to officials of the Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation, which now manages the building, the home has undergone no interior or exterior alterations since its construction.</p> <p>At the present time the structure is a house - museum dedicated to the memory of Mary McLeod Bethune. The house is maintained in exactly the same state as when occupied by Mrs. Bethune. All the rooms in the house, none of which have been changed since her death, contain Mrs. Bethune's furnishings.</p> <p>When the Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation was established in 1953, a small brick building resembling a garage was attached to the home. The building serves as an archives for the Mary McLeod Bethune papers. Although it is not a part of the original structure, it is not an intrusion of sufficient magnitude to detract from home's basic integrity.</p>		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☒ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Mary McLeod Bethune was one of the best known black Americans during the period between World War I and World War II. As a founder of the United Negro Women of America, as director of the Division of Negro Affairs in Franklin Delano Roosevelt's National Youth Administration, as a recipient of the NAACP's Springarn Medal, and as a consultant on interracial affairs to the first United Nations General Assembly in San Francisco, Mrs. Bethune was a public figure and a leading spokesman for the concerns of black America. Although she can be classified as an administrator, civil rights leader, Negro spokesman, and presidential adviser, she is best remembered as an educator. It was her role as black educator that established her reputation and it was this role that served as the base of her many activities and interests outside of education.

Mary McLeod Bethune was born in 1875 in a small wooden cabin near Mayesville, South Carolina. She was the fifteenth child of former slave parents. At an early age she is said to have displayed a strong interest in receiving an education. Like most of her fellow blacks she perceived education as the only way through which black America could attain the benefits of freedom. When she was nine the Presbyterian Church in Mayesville established a missionary school and it was there that she received her first formal education. While attending this school she attracted the attention of one Mary Crissman, a devote Quaker. Mrs. Crissman arranged a scholarship for her to the Presbyterian Barber-Scotia Seminary in Concord, North Carolina. Upon completing Barber-Scotia Seminary Mary McLeod attended the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago to prepare for a vocation as African missionary. When she graduated from the Moody Bible Institute there were no positions available in Africa and she returned to the South as a teacher. She taught first at Haines Institute in Augusta, Georgia, and then moved to Sumter, South Carolina. There she met and married a fellow school teacher named Albertus Bethune. The Bethune's had one child, a son named Albert. The family soon moved to Savannah, Georgia, where Albertus opened a tailor shop. Instead of settling down to the activities of the home, Mrs. Bethune decided to continue her missionary - educational work among the black poor. In 1904, shortly after the death of her husband, Mary McLeod Bethune learned that a community of black laborers had grown up at Daytona Beach in connection with railroad construction in Florida. She decided that she would move to Daytona Beach and start a school.

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sterne, Emma G., Mary McLeod Bethune, (New York, 1957).

Jones, Thomas J., Negro Education, (Washington, 1917).

Flynn, James J., Negroes of Achievement, (New York, 1970)

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
James Sheire, Historian

ORGANIZATION Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation,  
National Park Service

DATE August 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE D.C.

CODE 11

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

Mary McLeod Bethune  
Home

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida
COUNTY	Volusia
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance

Continued

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Mrs. Bethune arrived in Daytona Beach in 1904. The resort community would be her home for the rest of her life. The story of the beginning and growth of today's Bethune-Cookman College is a true saga of Mary McLeod Bethune's dedication to the education of black youth. The Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls opened in 1904 in a dilapidated cabin "on the other side of tracks." The first class consisted of five girls and Mrs. Bethune's son Albert. She pursued the development of her school in a 1904 traditional manner: she appealed to the philanthropic sentiments of northern wealth. Mrs. Bethune quickly recognized that Daytona Beach's position as a resort favored by wealthy industrialists and merchants presented an ideal opportunity to raise funds for her school. When these men were in Daytona Beach, she appealed personally to them for support. She was successful. By 1910 a series of donations and grants had provided a firm foundation for the Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute. In 1923 the school merged with the Cookman Institute for Boys of Jacksonville. The Board of Education of the Methodist Church took over sponsorship of the new Bethune-Cookman College and turned it into a junior college. In 1941 a four year degree program in teacher training and liberal arts was introduced and the first class graduated two years later. In 1947 the college received the coveted "A" accreditation rating of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In the same year Mary McLeod Bethune, now 72, stepped down as president of the school. The school that she had built on, to use her words, faith, prayer, and endless toil, was making an important contribution to black education in the South.

Mary McLeod Bethune's remarkable achievement of establishing a school and turning it into a viable institution of higher learning brought her national recognition. From her role as educator she moved on to become a spokesman for the general concerns of black America. When in 1936 President Franklin D. Roosevelt brought her into his administration as Director of the Division of Negro Affairs in the National Youth Administration, she was recognized as one of the country's major black leaders.

Mary McLeod Bethune died in 1955. Her life experiences had ranged from laborer as a South Carolina field hand to private conversations with presidents. Mary McLeod Bethune is a significant figure in many areas of Afro-American history in America. But she herself always felt that she made her major contribution as an educator. Black youths and their religious and intellectual well being were her permanent concern.